

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A particle-optical apparatus provided with a focusing device ~~(11)~~ having an optical axis ~~(10)~~ for the purpose of focusing a beam ~~(1)~~ of electrically charged particles upon a focus position ~~(9)~~, which focusing device ~~(11)~~ comprises:

- a magnetic lens for producing a focusing magnetic field ~~(21)~~ with the aid of magnetic pole pieces ~~(4,5)~~;
- an electrostatic lens for producing a focusing electric field ~~(20)~~, in which the beam ~~(1)~~ undergoes an energy change,

whereby the focusing electric field ~~(20)~~ is placed upstream with respect to a region ~~(23)~~ situated between the focusing magnetic lens ~~(21)~~ and the focus position ~~(9)~~, characterized in that

- the magnetic lens is provided with permanent-magnetic material ~~(6)~~ for generating the focusing magnetic field ~~(21)~~ required for the lens action, and;
- said energy change has the form of an energy increase.

2. (Currently Amended) A particle-optical apparatus according to claim 1, whereby in which there is a region present around the optical axis ~~(10)~~ in which region both the focusing magnetic field ~~(21)~~ and the focusing electric field ~~(20)~~ are present.

3. (Currently Amended) A particle-optical apparatus according to ~~one of the preceding~~  
~~claims claim 1, whereby the~~ in which the pole pieces of the magnetic lens include a sample-side  
pole piece ~~(5) of the magnetic lens that~~ is made of electrically conductive material, and functions  
additionally as an electrode of the electrostatic lens.

4. (Currently Amended) A particle-optical apparatus according to ~~one of the preceding~~  
~~claims claim 1, provided with~~ further comprising an adjustor ~~adjustment means for rendering~~  
adjustable the focus position ~~(9) that is to be held constant by the apparatus during imaging.~~

5. (New) A particle-optical apparatus according to claim 2, in which the pole pieces of  
the magnetic lens include a sample-side pole piece that is made of electrically conductive  
material, and functions additionally as an electrode of the electrostatic lens.

6. (New) A particle-optical apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising with an  
adjustor for rendering adjustable the focus position that is to be held constant by the apparatus  
during imaging.

7. (New ) A particle-optical apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising an  
adjustor for rendering adjustable the focus position that is to be held constant by the apparatus  
during imaging.